

# *Community Television Review*

National Federation of Local Cable Programmers

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## THE SLIPPERY SLOPE

Edited by Thomas Karwin

Controversial programming is an issue which has garnered a great deal of attention from access managers, regulators, programmers and producers. How do you deal with programs seen as potentially objectionable. From Pocatello to St. Louis access television program content has been a subject of national interest. However the questions that need answering occur much closer to home than the Geraldo show.

*"How best can access defend the Constitutional rights of minority and unpopular speakers when access centers derive their funding from institutions with elected officials seeking popularity from the majority?"*

Dirk Koning

*"For the access manager, I don't think there's such a thing as an enlightened self-interest, because the access manager does not own the channel, is not an editor..."* Joe Van Eaton

*"Access must be mainstream and that is the responsibility of the access manager, to get everyone involved in access, including the moderate voices and the majoritarian voices."*

Michael Meyerson

*"We need to stick with what congress said: diverse and antagonistic viewpoints are necessary for a healthy democracy. [Still,] at some point, access channels may be forced to defend the principle of free speech in a public forum..."*

Alan Bushong

In a recent teleconference Joe Van Eaton, Esp., Spiegel & McDiarmid, Michael Meyerson, Professor of Law, University of Baltimore and Alan Bushong, Executive Director, Austin Community Access Television were questioned on issues surrounding controversial access programming by CTR Editorial Board members, Dirk Koning and Thomas Karwin.

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## Message from the Chair

Sharon Ingraham

One of the reasons any of us joined the NFLCP is to obtain representation at the national level. In this edition of CTR, I'd like to briefly update you on some of the ways in which NFLCP is serving members to that end.

NFLCP has taken several active steps to protect your interests, in the past few months and has plans for the future. Our representatives visit several key Congressional offices, including the House and Senate Telecommunications Committees, on a regular basis. NFLCP spoke on the value of local programming at a series of workshops in Washington in conjunction with the *System ACE* award judging. We will be speaking at the NCTA National Convention in Dallas and direct meetings with the NCTA are continuing. In addition there have been recent meetings with the U.S. Telephone Association, former NFLCP Board member Tom Volgy, who chairs the Telecommunications and Transportation Advisory Committee of NLC, and NFLCP will be attending a meeting of other media and consumer groups at the FCC. In addition, NFLCP is filing a joint amicus brief in Kansas City with the Alliance for Communications Democracy to help keep public access in the hands of the public. The access advocacy handbook is also receiving strong sales, and we hope that will continue to provide members with many of the skills needed to create strong local advocacy.

Those of us who are carrying out these efforts at the national level could not do this without your active membership and support. More importantly, what you do at the local level gives us the facts, anecdotes and other vital information that we then relay to Washington and elsewhere. Your efforts to create meaningful local programming have not gone unnoticed, even though controversial programming often seems to take center stage.

Keep NFLCP posted about what is going on in your community. It helps to send the National Office and Board members copies of your newsletters (I really read them!). Hope to see many of you in Dallas! 


## FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

NFLCP and the Alliance for Communications Democracy have filed a joint amicus brief in the Kansas City case. This brief is designed to defend the public's right to access, and separates us from defending the specific rights of the KKK. The estimated costs for the brief is \$5000 and NFLCP's goal is to raise at least 1/2 of the legal expenses.

If you are interested in contributing toward the costs of the brief, we would welcome your contribution. Please make the check payable to the NFLCP and send it to:

Sharon Ingraham  
NFLCP Chairperson  
6 Puritan Road  
Acton, MA 01720


(508) 897-8066

In addition, we wish to thank all the organizational members and NFLCP regions who have already contributed to the fund 

## Video Magazine Explores Opportunities

The Little City Foundation is producing a public access cable television program, "Given Opportunities..." as a monthly video magazine. The program highlights the accomplishments and abilities of people with developmental challenges.

Features will cover individuals who have succeeded as a result of being given an opportunity or who have achieved beyond the limits and barriers imposed upon them by their disability.

The Foundation is seeking people (individuals or groups) who deserve the honor of being spotlighted on a national television program. They are also interested in stories about educational, vocational, recreational, and residential programs available to people with developmental challenges. If your access center has any ideas, please contact The Little City Foundation by calling Alan Dachman at 312-282-2207. There are also opportunities for volunteer producers at access centers to produce story ideas for the nationally distributed program 





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## MOLE HILLS OUT OF MOUNTAINS

by Dirk Koning

The view is truly miraculous. Nestled in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, we looked out on a 180 degree panorama of rolling hills speckled with black and white cattle and exploding redbuds and dogwood. A hovering mist was snaking its way in and out of valleys dodging splatters of sunlight filtered through spun glass clouds.

This was the setting last April for a small group of accessites who had the pleasure of sharing dinner and conversation with Miles Horton at the Highlander Center in New Market, Tennessee. Miles started the Highlander Center and lives in an unpretentious house near the back of the 100 acre research and education center. Bill Moyers called Miles a radical hillbilly in a recent two part interview on the balcony of the main lodge at Highlander. Miles has been tussling with the Klan, local government and business for decades. Martin Luther King rallied his troops at Highlander.

***“You’ve got to stand for principle and not give in to popular opinion to cover your butt.” - Miles Horton***

Born and raised in Tennessee, Miles says proudly that there hasn’t been a year in his life (70+) that he hasn’t put his feet down in Tennessee. He joined us in the dining room of Highlander at the sound of the big swinging bell, for one of our ‘three square meals a day’. We settled around one of the large tables, all covered with checkered table cloths, and dove into some crispy fried chicken, bushel baskets of broccoli, corn on the cob and upside down pineapple cake.

Miles is a distinguished man of medium build with a soft looking, well-trimmed silver/grey beard. His slightly gnurled hands worked over the chicken. There was a lazy shock of light brown hair sweeping across his forehead.

A bright white T-shirt was peeking out of the open collar of his well worn multi-colored plaid shirt. “Last time I got my renewal from the ACLU it asked if I was a card carrying member,

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## *The Slippery Slope*

*Continued from 1*

**Bushong:** It's essential that we maintain our stand that we are a content neutral facilitator for the community, community participants, and views within the community. We all recognize that problems come about only when the speech is controversial and unpopular [and] that practically all of unpopular and even blatantly offensive speech is legal speech.

**Van Eaton:** Once you head down the road to censorship, you don't have access. The whole idea of access is that it's available to all on a first-come, first-served basis. And once you depart from that basis, you simply don't have access anymore. You have a form of local origination run by another organization, which may or may not be a good thing. Censorship is a sort of slippery slope. Once you show yourself willing to give in to censorship, it's a never-ending process.

**Bushong:** We need to stick with what Congress said: diverse and antagonistic viewpoints are necessary for a healthy democracy. [Still,] at some point, access channels may be forced to defend the principle of free speech in a public forum at the expense of their very existence. At what point can or should access retreat to make concessions for survival?

**Meyerson:** As soon as they retreat, they have no reason to survive. In other words, access only exists as a public form of voice for everybody. As soon as it stops being a voice for the commu-

nity, it becomes a tool for censorship and then it has no right and perhaps no legality for surviving.

### *Enlightened Self-interest*

**Karwin:** Traditionally, the mass media have been guided by the principal of enlightened self-interest: a newspaper is free to publish a lot of things that it doesn't publish because it is afraid it will lose advertisers and subscribers. So, what is the role of enlightened self-restraint in access programs? This might apply to the access programmers, as well as to the access manager.

**Van Eaton:** An individual programmer always has to keep his enlightened self-interest in mind; there may be more effective ways to speak.

For the access manager, I don't think there's such a thing as an enlightened self-interest, because the access manager does not own the channel, is not an editor. Once an access manager starts thinking of him-

***"It is important to teach users that they are absolutely, legally liable for what they put on the air." Joe Van Eaton***

self as a newspaper editor, as a gatekeeper, he's off on the wrong course.

### *Educating Programmers and Communities*

**Bushong:** It's in the best interest of a center to work with groups that are under-represented, to make their channels as reflective of the community as possible. In that way, you're preparing

and involving the groups which may be offended for any reason by any other type of programming, and helping them understand that censorship is not the route.

**Van Eaton:** It is important to teach users that they are absolutely, legally liable for what they put on the air. Anyone should understand, for example, that there are severe federal penalties for invasion of privacy, for transmission of obscene programming, that there are state and local laws that may affect how they can speak, that there are copyright laws which affect them, and that they are personally liable. The great advantage of access is that programmers get to say what they want, but that also means they have to accept responsibility for what they say.

**Meyerson:** Two things have to be communicated to the programmer. [Firstly,] the access center will run any programming, period, because that's its job, and that you're not threatening not to run it.

And, secondly, invasion of privacy or obscenity are difficult legal questions, so you should always say, "If you have a question about liability,

go get a lawyer, because I, the access center, am not legally qualified. It's not my job and I don't have the ability to tell what's illegal speech and what isn't."

*Continued page 5*



## ***Dealing with Objectionable Speech***

Meyerson: If the question is "What do you do with material that's not illegal, but that's going to make a segment of the community

judge, and you have a non-censorship policy, how can or should you play that tape?

Meyerson: Call the district attorney. It's his job, not your job, to enforce the law. Under your incredibly unlikely scenario, the access

If you violate the program contract you cannot replay the program.

Van Eaton: Alan, you're not saying anybody's ever run obscene material on your channel, are you?

***"That's what I say to other communities: 'If Race and Reason hasn't come in, prepare for it now.' If you're doing public access very successfully, you'll have support when a controversy occurs."***

**Alan Bushong**

upset?" the answer is the usual answer: the more people in the community are involved in access, the less of a problem that will be. You may want people notified ahead of time that lock boxes can be used, and you always want to get counter speech on. But, certainly, you should never, under the guise of advising, implicitly threaten to keep a program off.

Van Eaton: If you wait for the controversial program to arrive before you act, you're usually in trouble, because the best defense against controversial programming is to have the whole community involved in access.

Bushong: That's what I say to other communities: 'If Race and Reason hasn't come in, prepare for it now.' If you're doing public access very successfully, you'll have support when a controversy occurs.

Koning: If you have something that is not protected by the First Amendment, it's blatantly illegal, or it has been deemed obscene by a

center should immediately call the d.a., and say, "Here's something that is obscene, please go, get a court order, and stop it." That's what district attorneys are for.

Van Eaton: When you receive a program that you know violates the law, the issue becomes a little bit more difficult. The answer may vary from state to state, and unfortunately federal law does not protect access centers which manage access operations from liability for the programming shown on access channels. But, frankly, I know of no situation in which that has actually arisen.

Bushong: If we have a complaint that alleges illegal speech, we do look at the program. We are not pre-screening; it has already been played and we have not withheld the program from playing on the channel. [We have a program contract, in which] each person submitting a program warrants that they have not done certain things, including all the laws that just mentioned.

Bushong: Well, I don't think they ever have, actually, but we have had a couple of instances in which there was questionably libelous speech.

Meyerson: Let's say you have an example where an access program says

something nasty about somebody else. And it runs once. I will say, again, that until a court has determined it's libel and cannot run, it is not the access center's job. Libel is simply too tough a concept to allow that. Even after receiving a complaint, the access authority has no ability to censor.

Van Eaton: You should tell the producer that you've received a complaint, and you should send a letter to the complainer telling him that you have no authority to censor the program, and that if they want to stop further showing of the program, it should go to court. The difficult situation arises where something happens and it becomes very, very clear that a program is libelous. The other thing you would do in that situation is to make sure the programmer has signed the appropriate indemnity agreements, and obtain some kind of insurance. I think that's important, as well.

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## Objectionable Speech

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Koning: In some cases we provide a complaint form. Someone calls in, says "I've got a complaint," we ship them a blank form that they can fill out, date and time, what they found objectionable, they file it in writing and submit it. We say right on the form we'll present a copy of that to the programmer and we stick it in a file, and the city looks it over. It's just a process that really doesn't have any weight, it's just to keep things clean and even, and everyone knows who's who.

Koning: Let me beg the question with an obscenity concern. Assume someone has their home video camera, and they videotape a sexual activity with penetration...

***"If you have a question about obscenity, call the d. a. That's their job, not yours. It's not the access center's job to police obscenity."***

**Michael Meyerson**

Meyerson: If you have a question about obscenity, call the d. a. That's their job, not yours. It's not the access center's job to police obscenity. It's a job for the district attorney that enforces the law. If the law of the state says "no obscenity," the d.a. should determine it. That is the only thing an access may do, because I will tell you that most non-lawyers and most lawyers, too, in fact, cannot tell obscenity when they see it.

Meyerson: Even though obscenity can be illegal speech, because the determination of what is obscene and what is not is so difficult, the Supreme Court has required certain rules for any regulatory scheme. It's the burden of the governmental entity, including the access center, to prove that something is obscene. The access center must bear the cost and the burden of going to court within a specified, limited amount of time to prove obscenity, and the prior restraint, the limitation on speech, can only last a short time, the time necessary to get a judicial determination.

Karwin: Isn't it true that some access centers will encourage programmers selectively to schedule their programming in late evening hours?

Bushong: In most access centers, you want the producers to reach the greatest amount of the community possible, because that's good for the producer and good for the access center. You encourage people to run their programs at the time when they can best reach their audience. You encourage them to promote their programs in the way that's most successful in reaching potential viewers. There's a real content-neutral way of doing that. I think some people have gone beyond that.

## Dealing with the Franchising Authority

Karwin: Many communities have programming boards that have adopted statements pertaining to "appropriate speech" or "appropriate programming" which could very well compromise the pure form of public access. Obviously, one would want to avoid having such rules and procedures adopted, but how do you operate when they have been adopted at the local level?

Van Eaton: The first step is an education process where you define quite clearly for your board and for the community what you can and what you can't do. For example, it's clear you could adopt a rule saying obscenity is prohibited on access channels. The thing to do when you're faced with those local rules is to first establish that this is a public forum, and then tell people what the law is with regard to these public forums, what you can do and what

you can't do. Obscenity may be an area where there is more latitude than our answers might suggest. However, some access center rules are based on the assumption that government can stop indecent programming on cable, and that is not the case.

Koning: How best can access defend the Constitutional rights of minority and unpopular speakers when access centers derive their funding from institutions with elected officials seeking popularity from the majority?

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## HOMETOWN ENTRIES HIT RECORD HIGH

The National Federation of Local Cable Programmers, Hometown USA Video Festival received a record number of entries in their 1989 competition.

According to Festival Director, Sue Buske, "We were up to our eyebrows in video tapes. With 1750 entries from 285 cities in 38 states, the Hometown Video Festival has grown to be the largest and most diverse cable programming competition in the US."

Festival judging was handled in a two-step process. Preliminary judging is hosted by seventeen selected sites. Those sites include: Staten Island Community Television; Cable Access - St. Paul, MN; Sangamon State University - Springfield, IL; Cincinnati Access Television Corp.; P.E.G.A.S.Y.S., Inc. - Enid, OK; Community Access Television Corp. - Nashville, TN; Sacramento Community Cable Foundation; City-TV - Santa Monica, CA; Grand Rapids Community Television - Grand Rapids, MI; Acadiane Open Channel - Lafayette, LA; Community Access Television - Industry, CA; William Paterson College - Wayne, NJ; Somerville Community Access Television, Somerville, MA; Clackamas Cable Access - Oregon City, OR; Evanston Community Television - Evanston, IL; Ownes Public Access TV - Flushing, NY; and Fairfax Community Access TV - Fairfax, VA.

Final judging for the festival was held in Tucson, Arizona and hosted by the Tucson Community Cable Corporation 

## NFLCP Annual Delegates Meeting Changes Schedule


**Sharon Ingraham, NFLCP National Chairperson**

Every year, NFLCP holds its Annual Meeting ("Delegates Meeting") in conjunction with the National Convention. The meeting is important to the membership in many ways. Delegates elect the At-Large and Standing Committee Chair Board members, sets goals and objectives for the organization, amend the Bylaws, review public policy positions and examine the activities of the Board and the NFLCP's fiscal administration.

Over the past several years, attendance at the NFLCP Annual Business Meeting has been slowly declining. Among the reasons cited by members is the difficulty taking that much time off from work, as well as the added expense of extra hotel nights. This year, we are trying a different schedule for the delegates. The Annual Meeting will start on Thursday morning, prior to the start of the convention in the afternoon. The Annual Report, Finance Report and presentation of business items will be made. The meeting then will recess until the end of convention and will resume on Saturday afternoon at about 3:00pm. It will continue until approximately 3:00pm on Sunday.

It is the Board's hope that this change will have several beneficial effects including 1) the opportunity for people to meet each other during the convention so that we are not strangers during elections 2) business and public policy items will have a chance for more informal discussion to take place during convention 3) constituency groups, such as EEO and Grassroots, will have met and discussed goals and 4) members will be able to take advantage of airline savings by leaving on Sunday or Monday morning and will have lower hotel expenses.

If this meeting model does not work, it can always be changed for the 1990 Convention in Washington, D.C. In the meantime, this seems like an alternative worth trying.

A recent mailing to the members outlined the criteria for attending as a voting delegate. If you are interested, please contact either the National Office or your Regional Representative to the National Board 



## Hometown USA Finalists

Screening rooms will be available to allow producers to share their work with Conference participants, as well as for viewing Hometown USA finalists.

Producers or a representative should be prepared to share how the idea evolved; who was involved; what type of resources were used and what the program's impact was on the community. If you would like to participate please bring tapes in either 3/4"-U-Matic or 1/2" VHS formats.

Here is a listing of all Hometown USA finalists, by category:

### Overall Excellence in Local Origination Programming

Viacom Cablevision of Long Island-Hauppauge, NY  
Irving Community Television Network-Irving, TX  
Burnaby Cable 4 - Burnaby BC  
MetroVision 11-Cablevision Industries-Danville, VA

### Overall Excellence in Institutional Access

Multnomah cable Access-Gresham, OR  
Channel 31-Ladewood, CA  
Dallas Independent School District, Channel 23-Dallas, TX  
WLRN-Cable T.A.P. Miami, FL

### Overall Excellence in Public Access

Staten Island Community TV-Staten Island, NY  
Sacramento Community Cable Foundation-Sacramento, CA  
Multnomah Cable Access-Gresham, OR  
Montgomery Community Television-Rockville, MD

### About Public Access - Professional - single

Community Access Spotlight Achievement Awards 1988, Vision Cable of Pinellas-Clearwater, FL  
Your Community Connections Miami Valley Cable Council-Kettering, OH  
Kenosha Community Access-A non-horrifying Cook Jones Intercable-Kenosha, WI  
One Step Closer to Home Fairfax County Dept. of Consumer Affairs-Fairfax, VA

### About Public Access - Volunteer - Single

Lights, Camer Access! Community Access Center-Kalamazo, MI  
A Closer Look at Public Access Bowie Community Television-Bowie, MD

### Best Access Program Promotion - Professional - Single

CH 10 Volunteerism Promo #5 Fairfax CVable Access Corp.-Laurel, MD

DCTV: Public Access Cable in Washington DCTV Public Access Corporation-Washington, DC  
Crime File Miami Valley Cable Council-Kettering, OH  
South Side Video Miami Valley Cable Council-Kettering, OH

### Best Access Program Promotion - Professional -Series

Video Newsletters Portland Cable Access-Portland, OR  
Best Access Program Promo Continental Cablevision-4-Fresno, CA  
QPTV Campaign Proposal Queens Public Access Telveision-Queens, NY

### Best Access Program Promotion - Volunteer - Single

What is Camera 8? Camera 8-Mountain Home, ID  
WICC Promo - Scarlett O'Hara Northwest Community TV-Brooklyn Park, MN  
The Eat More Carp Show Miami Valley Cable Council-Kettering, OH  
Barbra Comcast Cable-Altadena, CA

### Best LO Program Promotion - Professional - Single

Newsbrief Norwalk Television-Norwalk, CA  
Regional Hockey Promo Medway Cable Access-Foxboro, MA  
Best LO Promotion Service Electric Cable TV-Allentown, PA  
Lake County Live Promo US Cable-Waukegan, IL

### Best LO Program Promotion - Professional - Series

Harold Promo - Massachusetts Agenda Medway Cable Access-Foxboro, MA  
Colorado's Sports Channel United Cable of Colorado-Englewood, CO  
Copley/Colony Copley/Colony Harbor Cable-Wilmington, CA  
Parents and Babies Whaling City CATV-New Bedford, MA

### Best LO Program Promotion - Volunteer-Single

All-Star Promo Adelphia Cable Communications-Toms River, NJ

### Documentary Public Awareness - Professional - Single

C.O.R.E. Travis County TV-38-Austin, TX  
Hidden Hunger Continental Cablevision-4-Fresno, CA  
An Embarrassment of Riches Cable 43-Chelmsford, MA  
Already In Death's Sight - AIDS, Continental Cablevision of Springfield-Springfield, MA

### Documentary Public Awareness - Volunteer - Single

Getting Around Community Cable TV-Mankato, MN  
CBS Tries the New York 3 Paper Tiger TV-New York, NY  
The Spirit of St. Elmo American Cablesystems-Los Angeles, CA  
The People Will Not Be Silent Somerville Community Access Television-Somerville, MA

### Documentary Event - Professional - Single

Mass Governor's Alliance Against Drugs Continental Cablevision-Arlington, MA  
Halfway to Hell, The Workers & Unions

Labor Video Project-San Francisco, CA  
River Rouge, A River in Need of a Friend Metrovision of Oakland County-Farmington Hill, MI  
Shutting the Doors Continental Cablevision-Springfield, MA

### Documentary Event - Pvolunteer - Single

American-Soviet Walk for Peace Takoma Park TV-Washington, DC  
Art in the Park Bloomfield Community Television-Bloomfield Hill, MI  
The Play's the Thing TCI Cable Wahington-Seattle, WA  
Dare the Atlantic City Channel 8 Livonia, MI

### Documentary Profile - Professional - Single

True Colors Chnnel E - Ed. Access-Grand Rapids, MI  
David's House Wheaton Community TV - 37-Wheaton, IL  
Crossing the Boundaries of Religion West Hartford Community TV-West Hartford, CT  
Essie Ward: Painter of Ozark Life Fayetteville Open Chnnel-Fayetteville, AR  
A Slice of Life Community Cable Television-Mankato, MN

### Documentary Profile - Volunteer - Single

Santa of the Lighthouses Winthrop Community Access Television-Winthrop, MA  
The Contemporary Arts Center Cultural Cable Channel-New Orleans, LA  
Head Start Makes A Difference Eugene, OR  
Proof of Delivery Community Channel 25 SF-Snata Cruz, CA

### Educational - Professional - Single

Places of Worship: Native Spirituality Rogers Cable 4-Vancouver, BC  
Beginnings Mutiple Systems in Boston-Boston, MA  
Traditional Chinese Opera Northern Dakota County Cable-Inver Grove Heights, MN  
Deep Water Dollars Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium-Sacramento, CA  
The Guiding Book Channel E - Ed Access-Grand Rapids, MI

### Educational - Professional - Series

Greenhills/Forest Park School Board Waycross Community Television-Fiorese Park, OH  
Line Blaster! Boston Public Schools/Dept. of Media Services-Dorchester, MA  
Florida Critters-the Good, Bad, Ugly Tampa Educ Cable Consortium-Seffner, FL  
Rap Sheet Live Comcast-Placentia, CA

### Educational - Volunteer - Single

Julie Bloomfield Hills Schools-Bloomfield, MI  
RSC In Focus KYOU-TV Ch. 26-Santa Ana, CA  
The Glenbrook South Report TCI-Glenview, IL  
Econews: A Focus on Environmental Education Ed Access/Santa Barbara-Los Angeles, CA

### Educational - Volunteer - Series

Crosstalk GHS-TV Studio-Germantown, TN  
The Patriot Program Camera 8-Mountain Home, ID  
Shelby County Schools Report GHS-TV Studio-Germantown, TN  
Access Together Project GHS-TV Studio-Germantown, TN

### Entertainment - Professional - Single

Something in the Park with George Cablevision of Chicago-Oak Park, IL  
TV Central ACTV-Columbus, OH



Norcal's Third Annual Sign-a-thon  
Sacramento Community Cable Foundation-  
Sacramento, CA  
Science Friction Theatre: Athens vs Mart  
Athens Cable Access-Athens, OH

**Entertainment - Professional - Series**  
Entertainment 80 United Cable Television-  
Industry, CA  
The Cable Comedy Show Cablevision of  
Brookline-Brookline, MA  
Even Later Continental Cablevision-Rolling  
Meadows, IL  
Spotlight Adelphia Cable Communications-  
Toms River, NJ

**Entertainment - Volunteer - Single**  
Animal Crackers! #4 Wheaton Community  
Television-Wheaton, IL  
Spoons Community TV23-Wyoming, MI  
Inducing Panic ACTV-21-Columbus, OH  
Spotlight on Fairfax #4 Fairfax Community  
Access Television-Fairfax, VA

**Entertainment - Volunteer - Series**  
The Boston Comedy Network Sharon  
Community TV-Sharon, MA  
The Friday Club Evanston Community  
Television-Evanston, IL  
The Uncle Ducky Show Allen County  
Public Library-Fort Wayne, IN  
Nostalgia Theater Sharon Community TV-  
Sharon, MA

**Ethnic Expression - Professional - Single**  
Word of Mouth: The Black Experience in  
Howard County Howard Community  
College-Columbian, MD  
Old Tune in a New Land Rogers Cable TV 4  
Vancouver-Vancouver, BC  
Caribbean Connection Continental Ca-  
blevision-Springfield, MA  
Creating Community: The African Experi-  
ence Multiple Systems in Boston-Boston,  
MA

**Ethnic Expression - Professional - Series**  
A Poet's Visit Starrett City TV-Brooklyn,  
NY  
Legacy WLRN - Cable T.A.P.-Miami, FL  
Ventena Educational Dallas Independent  
School District, Channel 23-Dallas, TX  
A Rich Heritage Montgomery Community  
Television-Rockville, MD

**Ethnic Expression - Volunteer - Single**  
Change Double Helix-St Louis, MO  
Music and Culture of a new Haitian  
Generation Boston Neighborhood Network-  
Dorchester, MA  
Gracias A La Vida Tucson Community  
Cable Corp-Tucson, AZ

**Ethnic Expression - Volunteer - Series**  
A Tribute to the Ladies Allen County Public  
Library-Ft. Wayne, IN  
Tiempo Latino United Cable-Van Nuys, CA  
This is India Cox Cable N.O. Access-New

Orleans, LA  
Stories of Survival: Refugees in Atlanta  
DeKlab Center for Community TV-Decatur,  
GA

**Informational - Professional - Single**  
City of Paramount looking Good city of  
Paramount-Paramount, CA  
All About Animals Bremerton Cable  
Access-Bremerton, WA  
Winterization: Chicago Windy City TV-  
Chicago, IL  
Sexual Assault: Changing the Reality  
Viacom Cablevision-Everett, WA  
Gangs - Facts Every Parent Should Know  
American Cablesystems-Bellflower, CA

**Informational - Professional - Series**  
I Remember When... Multnomah Cable  
Access-Gresham, OR  
Main Streets Continental Cablevision-  
Arlington, MA  
Straight Talk About Disabilities Municipal  
Channel-Boston, MA  
Talk TV With Peter Boyles United Cable of  
Colorado-Englewood, CO

**Informational - Volunteer - Single**  
Operation Response '88 Wheaton Commu-  
nity Television - 37-Wheaton, IL  
Econews: Conversations on Population City  
Channel 10-Los Angeles, CA  
The Law On Trial Montgomery Community  
Television-Rockville, MD

## Of Special Interest ...

### Alliance for Communications Democracy Annual Meeting

Saturday July 15 @ 7:30am

### Delegates Sessions

Thursday, July 13 @ 11:00am to Noon

Saturday, July 15 @ 3:00pm

### Equal Opportunity Caucus

Thursday, July 13 @ 9:00-10:30am

### Grassroots Caucus

Thursday, July 13 @ 5:00pm

### Hometown Awards Ceremony & Celebration

Thursday, July 13 @ 8:00pm

### International Committee Meeting

Saturday, July 15 @ 7:30am

### Regional Workshops

Friday July 14 @ 5:30pm

[for location of meetings check the bulletin board in the conference registration area]



## The Video Frontier - Tracks '89

A new format for the NFLCP Annual Conference will debut this year in Dallas. Participants in "The Video Frontier" will have the opportunity to learn from and share ideas with colleagues from around the world.

Track sessions for this year's conference include **Issues & Ethics - Production - Management & Planning - Public Policy - Marketing.**

Update Sessions on **What's Hot in Access - What's Hot in the Cable Industry - Equipment Update - Public Policy in the 90's - International Programming Opportunities - Equal Opportunity Caucus ...** will give attendees a chance to ask questions and get answers about creation and development of local cable programming and cable industry policy.

The roundtable meetings that were so popular in the past have been included to allow even more time to meet with other members sharing like interests, or to explore special interest groups. As well, networking opportunities are increased so you'll have time to discuss unique situations and scenarios which challenge this industry.

Over 20 exhibitors have reserved space and will feature a wide array of products and services, technical innovations and effects on the work environment.



Herman Zaage Master of Mezzotint Staten Island Community TV-Staten Island, NY  
Too Soon ... Too Small Staten Island Community TV-Staten Island, NY

**Informational - Volunteer - Series**  
Bradford Viewpoint TV-33-Bradford, MA  
High Time Continental Cablevision-4-Fresno, CA  
Times Past Continental Cablevision-South Hamilton, MA  
Behind the Scenes Cablevision of CT-Greenwich, CT

**Innovative - Professional - Single**  
12/24/88 & Reflections on Martin L. King City TV-Santa Monica, CA  
Sanctuary? Rogers Cable TV-Vancouver, BC  
The Fat Chance Iowa City Public Library-Falls Church, VA  
Neponset Nightmare II Canton Cable Access-Canton, MA

**Innovative - Professional - Series**  
Video Press Series Segment Paducah-2-Paducah, KY  
The Meadowlands Showcase Presents Comcast Cablevision-Lodi, NJ  
Hi-Res Diner Cable Access of Dallas-Dallas, TX  
Miami Sign Waves WLR - Cable T.A.P.-Miami, FL

**Innovative - Volunteer - Single**  
About Face Boston Community Access-Jamacia Plain, MA  
Going on a Picnic Evanston Community Television-Evanston, IL  
South Bay Styles Hawthorne Cable Usage Corporation-Hawthorne, CA  
Goodbye Portland Portland Public Access-Portland, MD

**Innovative - Volunteer - Series**  
Paint in Oils Torrance Community Television-Torrance, CA  
The Larz form Mars Show Fairfax Cable Access Corp.-Fairfax, VA  
Deep Dish Series Sampler Deep Dish TV-New York, NY  
Barbra Comcast Cable-Altadena, CA

**Instructional/Training - Professional - Single**  
Is This Any Way To Live? Managing Stress city of Tampa, Government Access-Seffner, FL  
check It Out Fairfax County Public Library-Falls Church, MA  
Hazardous Household Waste WELG Channel 22-East Lansing, MI  
Time Out KACT-TV-Aurora, CO

**Instructional/Training - Professional - Series**  
IPFW Mind & Body Workout College Access Channel 23-Ft. Wayne, IN  
The Cable Easel Viacom Cablevision of Long Island-Happauge, NY  
Promo Execet Dallas Independent School District Channel 23-Dallas, TX  
Ceramics with Micky WLRN - Cable T.A.P.-Miami, FL

**Instructional/Training - Volunteer - Single**  
Origami-the Japanese Art of Paperfolding Miami Valley Cable Council-Kettering, OH  
Silent Music Little City Foundation-Chicago, IL  
Parachutes are Fun! Bowie Community Television-Bowie, MD  
The World of Computer Graphic Bowie Community Television-Bowie, MD

### Instructional/Training - Volunteer - Series

Food Stamp Gourmet Mile High Cablevision-Denver, CO  
Back to Health Staten Island Community Television-Staten Island, NY  
Pet Talk Cox Cable, Cranston/Johnston-Cranston, RI  
Aerobics with Annie & Company Cable 3 - KEIM-TV-El Monte, CA

**International - Professional - Single**  
The Chicahual Drums Still Echo Butler Community College Cable 14-El Dorado, KS  
Swedish Folk Fiddling/Edwin Johnson Rogers Cable TV-Eden Prairie, MN  
Building Peace in the Midst of War Somerville Community Access-Cambridge, MA  
El Salvador in Crisis Foxboro Cable Access-Foxboro, MA

**International - Volunteer - Single**  
Korean Costume: Changes in View of Her History & Cultural Contact UA-Columbia Cablevision-Bethany, CT  
The Bicentennial Will Not Be Televised Paper Tiger TV-New York, NY  
High Anxiety Sailing on Cloud Nine Minneapolis Television Network-Minneapolis, MN  
Heart Leap KCTV, Ch. 19-Santa Barbara, CA

**International - Volunteer - Series**  
Common Ground Among Women Cambridge Community Television-Cambridge, MA  
This is India Cox Cable N.O. Access-New Orleans, LA  
International Womens's Day Festivities Austin Community Television-Austin, TX

**Live - Professional - Single**  
Election '88 Jones Intercable-Tampa, FL  
Names Project Quilt - Live Portland Cable Access-Portland, OR  
Spartan Hockey '89 WELM-TV-East Lansing, MI  
The Red Cross Jamaican Hurricane Tele Rogers Cable TV-Vancouver, BC

**Live - Professional - Series**  
Antonwich/Ward, AIDS, Homeless Century Cable TV-Santa Monica, CA  
TV Hangman United Cable TV of Northern Indiana-Hammond, IN  
Question of Extension WLRN - Cable T.A.P.-Miami, FL  
Les Jameson Live Viacom Cablevision-Nashville, TN

**Live - Volunteer - Single**  
SRO/TV Cable Access of Dallas-Dallas, TX  
Election Night 1988 GHS-TV Studio-Germantown, TN  
Tube Uncommon Lakewood Community Access-Lakewood, CA  
Commander Zero's Live Halloween Dance Party Wheaton Community Television-Wheaton, IL

**Live - Volunteer Series**  
Peter, Zook, Potter MCCET Channel 3 Cable-Mendocino, CA  
SRO/TV Cable Access of Dallas-Dallas, TX  
College Miami Valley Cable Council-Kettering, OH  
Nightvision: The Future Tucson Community Cable Corp.-Tucson, AZ

**Local News - Professional - Series**  
News Center 6 Lowell Cable TV-Lowell, MA  
Newscenter 15 Piscataway Community TV



Center-Piscataway, NJ  
NewsCenter 6 U.S. Cablevision-Wappingers  
Fall, NY  
News Brief Norwalk Television, Norwalk,  
CA

**Local News - Volunteer - Series**  
Around and About Orange County KYOU-  
Channel 26 -Santa Ana, CA  
Germantown News and Views GHS-TV  
Studios-Germantown, TN  
Tri-Cable Tonight Milwaukee Access &  
Telecommunication Authority-Milwaukee,  
WI  
North County Newsline Cablevision/  
Dimension-San Marcos, CA

**Magazine Format - Professional - Series**  
Chiropractic Today Cablevision-Old  
Brookville, NY  
Beyond the Beach Century Cable TV-Santa  
Monica, CA  
Irving Review Irving Community Televi-  
sion Network-Irving, TX  
Citylife Composit Govrnmnt Cable  
Channel 17-Pittsburgh, PA

**Magazine Format - Volunteer - Series**  
Change Double Helix-St. Louis, MO  
Staten Island Journal Staten Island Commu-  
nity Television-Staten Island, NY  
The Ric Rollins show Jones Intercable  
Public Access-Tampa, FL  
WAC-TV Boston Neighborhood Network-  
Jamaica Plain, MA

**Municipal - Professional - Single**  
Fourth Annual Fishing Derby city of  
Southfield Cable 8-Southfield, MI  
9-1-1 When Second Count city of Dallas  
Municipal Channel 17B-Dallas, TX  
Come Check it out city of Dallas Municipal  
Channel 17B-Dallas, TX  
The Fire Prevention Rap city of Minne-  
aplis-Minneapolis, MN  
Challenging the New Decade city of  
Pasadena Channel 55-Pasadena, CA

**Municipal - Professional - Series**  
CitiMagazine city of St. Paul-St. Paul, MN  
Meridian Magazine HOM-TV Channel 22-  
Okemos, MI  
County Lines Multnomah Cable Access  
Corporation-Gresham, OR  
Artworks Government Cable Channel 17-  
Pittsburgh, PA

**Municipal - Volunteer - Single**  
Protocol Hillsborough County Cable TV-  
Tampa FL  
Heartland Harves (Farmer's Market) Windy  
City TV-Chicago, IL  
Household Hazardous Waste Community  
Access Producers Association-Raleigh, NC  
Crimeline Community Access Center-  
Kalamazoo, MI

**Municipal - Volunteer - Series**  
Meridian Magazine HOM-TV Channel 22-  
Okemos, MI  
Issues Livonia Channel 13 Metrovision-  
Livonia, MI  
The Court and You UA/Columbia Cable-  
Passaic, NJ  
Election 88 HOM-TV Channel 22-Okemos,  
MI

**Music Video - Professional - Single**  
Nobody's Keeping Me Columbia Commu-  
nity Access Corporation-Columbus, OH  
Tony Rome One Love Rogers Cablesys-  
tems-Plymouth, MN  
United Way Rap Video Iowa Valley TV/22-  
Marshalltown, IA  
Holding the Flag City Cable Channel 32-  
Charlotte, NC

**Music Video - Volunteer - Single**  
Spoons TV 23 (Wyoming, MI)-Kentwood,  
MI  
Body Count United of Oakland-Pleasant  
Ridge, MI  
The Not-for-MTV Music Videos Cincinnati  
Cable Access Corporation-Cincinnati, OH  
The Cucumbers Continental Cable Reading-  
Reading, MA  
Games Without Frontiers Erie Cablevision-  
Erie, PA

**Original Teleplay - Professional - Single**  
the Death Card Westerly Cable TV-  
Pawtucket, RI  
Once A Scout, Always a Scout Continental  
Cablevision-Ossining, NY  
Simple Truth Continental Cablevision-  
Ossining, NY  
Ms. Ray Remembers Boston Neighborhood  
Network-Boston, MA

**Original Teleplay - Volunteer - Single**  
Trapped Continental Cable 24 -Tulare, CA  
Tough Call Hawthorne Cable Usage  
Corporation-Hawthorne, CA  
Wizzard's Dance United Cable-Royal Oak,  
MI  
The Beat Viacom Cablevision-Cleveland,  
OH

**Performing Arts - Professional - Single**  
Anti-Gravity DeKalb Center for Community  
TV-Decatur, GA  
Cablevision Special Presentation: Dance  
Umbrella cablevision of Boston-Brookline,  
MA  
The Meeting KTOP - Oakland Public  
Library-Oakland, CA  
Dreams Piscataway Community TV Center-  
New Brunswick, NJ  
Visa a la Tierra Encantada United Cable of  
Colorado-Englewood, CO

**Performing Arts - Professional - Series**  
The Hollywood Jazz Festival Storer  
Hollywood Cable-Hollywood, FL  
Encore city of Tucson/Channel 12-Tucson,  
AZ  
Culture A La Carte Continental Ca-  
blevision-4-Fresno, CA  
Texas Music and Art Festival Irving  
Community Television Network-Irving, TX

**Performing Arts - Volunteer - Single**  
Shizumi Dance Theatre Montgomery  
Community Television-Rockville, MD  
Anacrusis: Modern Tap Dance Multnomah  
Cable Access-Portland OR  
Shakespeare High UA-Columbia Ca-  
blevision-N. Attleboro, MA  
SRO/TV Cable Access of Dallas-Dallas, TX

**Performing Arts - Volunteer - Single**  
Video Coffee House Staten Island Commu-  
nity TV-Staten Island, NY  
SRO/TV Cable Access of Dallas-Dallas, TX  
Jersey Jazz: Real to Reel UA/Columbia  
Cable-Paterson, NJ  
Music Alive Chicago Municipal Channel-  
Chicago, IL  
Neon Nite Sacramento Community Cable  
Foundation-Sacramento, CA

**Programming By Seniors - Professional - Single**  
The Immortal Charles Copley/Colony  
Harbor Cable-Wilmington, CA  
Senior Connection Paducah-2-Paducah, KY

**Programming By Seniors - Professional - Series**  
AgeWise Portland Cable Access-Portland,  
OR


## Places to be in the "Big D"

**Six Flags over Texas** - one of the state's top attrac-  
tions this 205-acre theme park  
sees more than two and a half  
million visitors each year.  
What they come for are a  
hundred-plus rides, shows and  
attractions spread throughout  
a lush landscape.

Dallas is home to a  
world-class **Zoo** with 2,000  
animals on 51 acres, including  
the most flamingos to be found  
in any public zoo and a Tropic-  
al Rain Forest full of exotic  
birds and jungle dwellers.

In Historic Plaza is a the  
**John F. Kennedy Memorial**.  
Designed by Philip Johnson it  
was built completely with pri-  
vate donations. The **Sixth  
Floor Kennedy Exhibit** in the  
Dallas County Administration  
Building chronicles the assas-  
sination of President Kennedy  
and its impact on American his-  
tory.

A trip to Dallas wouldn't  
be complete with out a Rodeo  
and so plan on an evening at  
the **Mesquite Arena**. Once  
there you'll find bronc-bust-  
ing, steer wrestling, calf-rop-  
ing and crazy clowns every Fri-  
day and Saturday night.

On the hightech side  
there is **Infomart**. A place to  
see and try the ever-evolving  
range of information process-  
ing products and services.  
From computer hardware and  
software, consulting services,  
telecommunications and train-  
ing to printers and plotters this  
is a techie's dream spot 



### **Programming By Seniors - Volunteer - Single**

100 Years of Mayors Quincy Community TV-Quincy, MA  
Health for a Lifetime Government/Public Access-Lincoln, NE  
The French Omelette Queens Public Access TV-Sunnyside, NY  
John Loree Presents....Quote...Unquote-Albuquerque, NM

### **Programming By Seniors - Volunteers - Series**

Your Turn Waycross Community Television-Cincinnati, OH  
Golf Travels with John Percival United Cable-Berkeley, MI  
Artspace - Basket Making Walpole community TV-Walpole, MA  
Senior Glimpses Cablevision of Dearborn-Dearborn, MI

### **Programming for Seniors - Professional - Single**

Saluting the Classics city of LA/Dept. of Telecomm.-Los Angeles, CA  
Part of the Solution: Housing Matches Boston Neighborhood Network-Newton Corner, MA  
Food for Thought city of Chicago/Office of Cable Communication-Chicago, IL  
The Vintage Times: Alheimers Downers Grove TV-Downers Grove, IL

### **Programming for Seniors - Professional - Series**

Senior Advantage WBRK Municipal Cable TV-Berkley, MI  
Ossing 1813-1988: Yesterday and Today Continental Cablevision-Ossining, NY  
Getting Up There City TV of Santa Monica-Santa Monica, CA  
Senior Times Fairfax County Dept. of Consumer Affairs Channel 16-Fairfax, VA

### **Programming for Seniors - Volunteer - Single**

The Cost of Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Sacramento Community Cable Foundation-Sacramento, CA  
Probate Conservatorship: Just the Facts Concord Cable-Martinez, CA

### **Programming for Seniors - Volunteer - Series**

We Seniors Sacramento Community Cable Foundation-Sacramento, CA  
Senior Glimpses Cablevision of Dearborn-Dearborn, MI

### **Programming by Youth - Volunteer - Single**

Kid's Express - Change Boston Neighborhood Network-Dorchester, MA  
Pomona School News/About Our Community American Cablesystems-Pomona, CA  
Life's the Pits/Wishflower Community Access Television Channel 53-City/Industry, CA  
...if you don't say... UA/Columbia Cable-Paterson, NJ

### **Programming by Youth - Volunteer - Series**

Listen up American Cablesystems-Los Angeles, CA  
Teen Productions Community Television of Knoxville-Knoxville, TN  
Stop the Violence Boston Neighborhood Network-Roxbury, MA  
South Side Video Miami Valley Cable Council-Kettering, OH

### **Programming for Youth - Professional - Single**

Come Check It Out city of Dallas Municipal 17B-Dallas, TX  
Kidstuff! Multnomah Cable Access-

Gresham, OR

Getting to School the Safe Way city of LA/Dept. of Telecomm. Los Angeles, CA  
Teen Talk KACT-TV-Aurora, Co

### **Programming for Youth - Professional - Series**

Kids Beat Cencom of Missouri III-Florissant, MO  
When I Grow Up I Wanna Be... Cablevision of Chicago-Oak Park, IL  
The Storytellers Suburban Cable TV-Doylestown, PA  
Accent on Youth Lockport Community Cable-Lockport, NY

### **Programming for Youth - Volunteer - Single**

Somewhere to Turn Glenbrook South TV-Glenview, IL  
How to Ask A Valentinesaurus Cable TV North Central-Roseville, MN  
Cutaway Angle Island show United Cable-San Leandro, CA  
Acting Up Hawthorne Cable Usage Corporation-Hawthorne, CA

### **Programming for Youth - Volunteer - Series**

Silicon Kids Cupertino Community Television-San Jose, CA  
Teen Talk Montgomery Community Television-Rockville, MD  
Stories for You West Hartford Community TV-West Hartford, CT  
Kosmos Rogers Cable 4-Vancouver, BC

### **PSA - Professional - Single**

Community Congress PSA Norwalk Television-Norwalk, CA  
Public Auction Promo Wyoming Community Television-Wyoming, MI  
Positive Service Announcements Bloomfield Community Television Bloomfield Hill, MI  
They Give Birth Astride A Grave RSEC-TV-Stamford, NY

### **PSA - Professional - Series**

Casey the Safety Car city of LA/Dept. of Telecomm.-Los Angeles, CA  
Learning is a Lifelong Experience Howard Community College Cable Eight-Columbia, MD  
Crimestoppers, Crime of the Week Tacoma Municipal TV-Tacoma, WA  
Manhattan Minutes Paragon Cable Manhattan-New York, NY  
Promotional Spots Century Cable TV-Santa Monica, CA

### **PSA - Volunteer - Single**

911 Music Video city of Tampa, Government Access-Tampa, FL  
CFF Twins PSA Rogers Cable-Plymouth, MN  
Prejudice Picks Montgomery Community-Rockville, MD  
Camp Shawand Miami Valley Cable Council-Kettering, OH

### **PSA - Professional - Series**

Styrofoam is Forever Amherst/Pelham cable-Greensboro, NC  
Kettering Theatre Under the Stars Miami Valley Cable Council-Kettering, OH

### **Religious - Professional - Single**

Kids are Great Springfield Community Access Network-Springfield, IL  
Understanding Your Church Service Electric Cable-Allentown, PA  
France Ministry Centel - TV32 - Asbury College-Wilmore, KY  
Places of Worship: Native Spirituality Rogers Cable 4-Vancouver, BC

**Religious - Professional - Series**  
Places of Worship Rogers Cable 4-Vancouver, BC

### **Religious - Volunteer - Single**

Kristallnacht: We Remember the Night Sharon Community TV-Sharon, MA  
St. Andrews Church Glen Ellyn Community Cable-Glen Ellyn, IL  
Sabbath Night Live Community Access Television Channel 53-City/Industry, CA  
Silent Touch Community Television of Knoxville-Knoxville, TN

### **Religious - Volunteer - Series**

Gospel Expression Heritage Cable-Claymont, DE  
Knoxville Looks at Central America Community Television of Knoxville-Knoxville, TN  
Second Community Hour Warner Cable-Cincinnati, OH  
His Touch Wheaton Community Television-Wheaton, IL

### **Sports - Professional - Single**

The Virginia Beach Neptune Festival Cox Cable Hampton Roads-Norfolk, VA  
Let 'er Buck: The Pendelton Round-Up Multnomah Cable Access-Gresham, OR  
The Indian Pacers - The ABA Years Channel 16/Government Cable-Indianapolis, IN  
EPC Basketball Championships Service Electric Cable-Allentown, PA

### **Sports - Professional - Series**

DISD Scholastic Sports Dallas Independent School District Channel 23-Dallas, TX  
The Minnesota Monarchs Report Cable TV North Central-White Bear Lake, MN  
Sports Medicine Grant Players of/Game Coaxial Communications-Columbus, OH  
Sports Spotlight City Channel 8-Livonia, MI  
High School Football Game of the Week Viacom Cablevision-Nashville, TN

### **Sports - Volunteer - Single**

World Series: 1988 Am. Legion Baseball Comcast Cable-Bristol, CT  
Police Olympic Games Community Access Producers Association-Raleigh, NC  
Vandal Basketball Action University of Idaho Moscow Ch. 13-Moscow, ID  
Little Red Devil Football GHS-TV Studios-Germantown, TN

### **Sports - Volunteer - Series**

Kenosha Area Fishing Report Jones Intercable-Kenosha, WI  
Sports Rap Continental Cablevision-Ossining, NY  
Inside Sports United Cable-Cupertino, CA  
Athletes in Motion Dimension Cable-Mission Viejo, CA

### **Video Art - Professional - Single**

Index Wheaton Community Television - 37-Wheaton, IL  
Seeing Sea City TV of Santa Monica-Santa Monica, CA  
63 Cable Access of Dallas-Dallas, TX  
Bird Miami Valley Cable Council-Kettering, OH

### **Video Art - Volunteer - Single**

Dance Palette Portland Cable Access-Portland, OR  
Some Questions Davis Community TV-Davis, CA  
Crouching in the Corner Warner Cable-Cincinnati, OH  
Medium Rare: Video in the Arts Brookline Community Cable-Brookline, MA

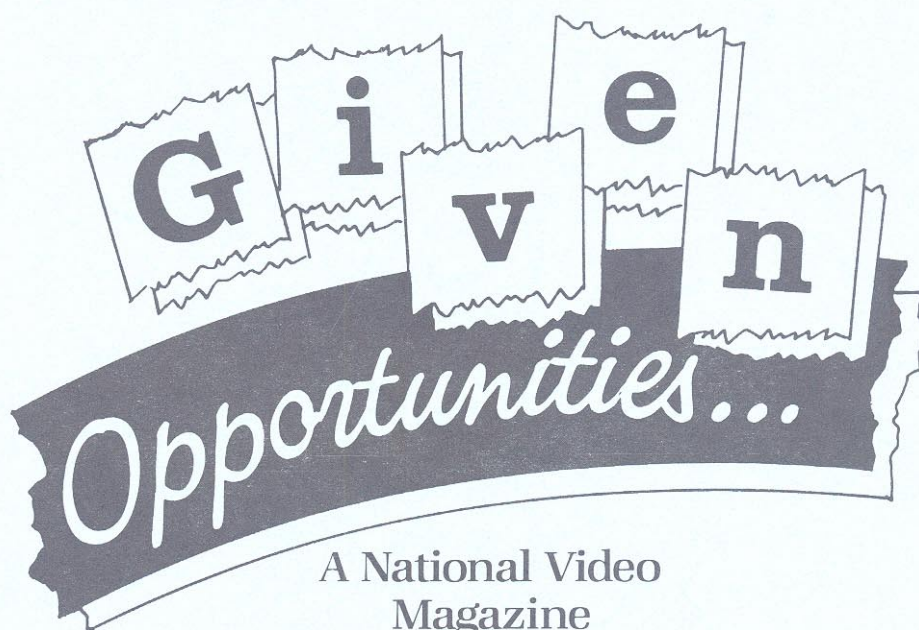




A Training Curriculum



A Public Access  
Television Talk Show



Nationally serving people with  
developmental challenges such  
as mental retardation.

For Information Contact:

**Little City Foundation**

4801 West Peterson Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60646

(312) 282-2207

FAX # (312) 282-0423



# Access Newsline

## NFLCP/ASTEC INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Two NFLCP members, Gary Ellis and Alex Quinn, both from Multnomah Cable Access, took off this May for Europe. While there, they not only sipped wine and bathed in foreign languages, but they appeared on local cable stations and taped a documentary on their adventure.

Gary Ellis, recipient of the 1988 ASTEC International Award during the Tampa '88 HOMETOWN Awards ceremony, was the guest of ASTEC, all expenses paid. Alex Quinn traveled with Gary, independent of the award. Both however, had opportunity to meet with European producers, attend a local media conference and show a selection of videos from HOMETOWN '88 to European audiences.

Gary and Alex videotaped their journey through Europe which promises to be interesting addition to this year's Convention! They arrived in Berlin where they presented the video "The Land of Can" and a dozen other videos selection last July. A bilingual interview will be taped as a wrap-around. From Berlin they traveled on to northern France for a local wrap-around and presentation of the videos. Next it was on to western France where they attended Mediaville, a prestigious cable conference hosted by the politicians of this country.

As no trip is complete without sometime in Gay Paris, the Multnomah pair spent some

time in the studios of Paris Premiere Cable system. Here they completed their own documentation of the journey.

You can view the European Tour documentary at the NFLCP Dallas '89 Convention in July, along with other ASTEC selections from European community video producers. ASTEC representatives will also be taking part in this conference as panel speakers during the International Update session as well as other workshops. So make time to view the tapes, see Gary's and Alex's documentary, talk to your European counterparts and learn more about ASTEC International 

## VITAL Network Expands into Columbus

ACTV - Cable 21, The Community Channel, serving Columbus, OH recently joined the Project VITAL (Video Induced Training and Learning) network. VITAL is a curriculum in basic television production skills geared to meet the learning needs of people with developmental challenges.


An open house was held on April 17 at the ACTV facilities to introduce Columbus to Project VITAL. Members of the local media, agencies that provide services to people with developmental challenges and representatives from advocacy organizations were invited to hear presentations about the benefits of becoming involved in access television and Project VITAL. There was also a

taping of "Wishes and Ideas" during the reception. "Wishes and Ideas" is a monthly talk show produced as part of the VITAL curriculum that features guests with developmental challenges.

Also on hand were representatives from the Columbus Foundation which funded the implementation costs of bringing project Vital to Columbus, Ohio.

Training of the first VITAL class began in May. Heidi Mau, Training Coordinator at ACTV said, "The training prepared all of us really well for the situations encountered during classes, ... (and) the open house opened doors to new segments of the community ... the response has been great."

Project VITAL, developed by the Little City Foundation, expands outreach, making access available to the thousands of people with developmental challenges and the agencies that provide services to them. Training is also being offered at Continental Cable vision in Peekskill, NY; at Triax Cablevision in Wayzata, MN; and at five sites throughout the state of Illinois: Evanston Community Television, Continental Cablevision in Palatine, East Peoria Cable Television Corp., Northwest Illinois TV Cable Company of Galesburg, and Champaign/Urbana Communications.

If you would like more information on bringing VITAL to your access center, call 312-282-2207. Or write to: Project VITAL in care of the Little City Foundation, 4801 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60646 



## Nashville -CAT Calls for Aid

The NFLCP Electronic Bulletin Board System [BBS] flashed out a distress call one Thursday evening - access was under siege in Nashville. Community Access Television [CAT] has been targeted, in Nashville city budget cuts.

C.A.T.'s General Manager Elliot Mitchell sent out the call for assistance. Speaking of Nashville's mayor, Bill Boner, Mitchell's message was to the point "His plan is to destroy public access and hand the ashes over to the government for their control". His request; letters and information about other access users/centers with success stories for Nashville City Council members. As this issue of *CTR* went to press resolution of the matter was still pending.

Access, in any community, is worthy of everyone's support and consider sending an informational to Mayor Boner stressing the need to keep access out of any city budget fights. As well, Elliott has asked for information about, and names of, access producer success stories, in his words, "As a direct consequence of experience and training in Access, this person you know moved into a paying job in some medium or another."

*Address letters to:*

Mayor Bill Boner  
Metro Courthouse  
Nashville, Tenn. 37201

*Please send copies of your letters to:*  
Elliot Mitchell

Community Access Television  
P.O. Box 5718

Nashville, Tenn. 37208

*CTR*

## New Addition to Access Family

The Western Montana community of Missoula has moved forward with plans to bring an access facility on line. As of June 15th the Missoula Community Access Television MCAT had a director, but no facility.

Randal L. Ammon, no stranger to Access, announced his acceptance of the MCAT job and will officially take over the post in mid-July. MCAT is still in search of a home but according to Board Chairman Ron Wheeler negotiations have been progressing with several parties and they hope to finalize a site by the end of July.

Ammond spent the last eight years in Pocatello managing Pocatello-Vision 12. At present his position there has not been filled *CTR*

## Farmers Branch & Heritage Cablevision Fight Cable Quality Battle

Residents of Farmers Branch, Texas took complaints about poor quality to a receptive city council in early May. A report in the "Farmers Branch Times" May 10 quoted Mayor Dave Blair, on recent customer service problems and substitutions as "...ill-conceived and ill-timed. ... The quality of service has upset a lot of people..."

Among those upset was Anita Reed, a community access user. Reed's show "Meet the Candidates" rested at the

heart of the the dispute. On that show, according to Reed "...The candidates were not represented well due to faulty camera equipment." Reed said she has filed several complaints, some as long ago as 1984

A follow up report, published a week later in the "Farmers Branch Times" stated that Heritage Cablevision was prepared to purchase new equipment as soon as the city provided a list of needs. This reportedly came at the strong urging of city council members, who were contemplating revoking Heritage's franchise. However, recent inquiries into the situation in Farmers Branch indicate only a minor equipment purchase has been made to date *CTR*

## Regions Combine Effort for Fall Conference.

The Central States and Midwest Region of NFLCP are planning a joint fall conference, Thursday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> at the Allen County Public Library in Ft Wayne, IN.

The co-conference planning has workshops in franchise renewal, amending the '84 Cable Act and technical session within the agenda. Comcast Cablevision of Indiana has provided Substantial underwriting to support the conference, which should be a great way to bring neighbors together.

For more information contact Rick Hayes, Public Access Channel 10, Allen County Public Library, 900 Webster St, Fort Wayne, IN 46801 *CTR*



Continued from page 3

## "The Klan is a molehill; Access a mountain."

I wrote on the form that I have been carrying the card since 1929" he chuckled.

He unassumingly mentioned a dinner he was at where he was seated between President Carter and Bishop Desmond Tutu. At one point in the evening he told Carter he wanted to thank him for his greatest accomplishment. Carter asked what it was, and Miles responded, "Amy". (She's been active in civil rights disputes having been arrested protesting four times)


At one point we mentioned the controversy rising regarding the use of cable access television by the Klan. Miles has been beat up by the Klan and Highlander torched several times by the Klan. (Remember the Klan started in Tennessee) "You can't give in on this one" he stated. "As long as free speech is left open, you can use it for your movement. As soon as it's gone you're sunk." But should we

defend the principle of free speech on Public Access knowing the political reality of possible extinction? "I would

white, playing in the front yard with balloons and streamers waiting for the parade with the 'funny men in the funny costumes'. The adults were up on the porch with lemonade and

food watching the 'parade' go by. The local sheriff did let the black officers have the day off and they showed up at Highlander with bullet belts criss-crossing their chests and guns in holsters just to help keep things in perspective. The 'parade' passed, no one was hurt or injured and Highlander prevailed.

Miles spent a couple hours with us covering a wide variety of topics

and concerns. He widdled his chicken down to crisply cleaned bones and stacked them neatly on his plate. While we all filled up our stomachs and souls, it was obvious we would never get our fill of Miles and he graciously slipped back up to his house. We adjourned to George Stoney's documentary, "We Shall Over Come" which just happened to be left at Highlander on one of George's last visits there. (George is working on a documentary with Miles) A crimson sun sulked slowly into its rocky bed in the Smoky's. The Klan is a molehill; Access a mountain - Miles Horton 



close Highlander tomorrow if I couldn't preserve its principle."

Miles told us the story of the time the Klan wanted to march on the Highlander Center. (It was in downtown Knoxville at the time) The local sheriff asked Miles if he should stop the march. Miles said no, they have the right to march. So when the march day was set, Miles sent a flyer out to black and white supporters and told them there was going to be a parade and everyone should come to the Highlander Center for the parade. On 'Parade Day' about 200 people were at the Highlander Center with 50 or so children, black and



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**Bushong:** A community consists of many narrow-interest groups. When you have made your programming reflective of the community, that will be very powerful for political figures, to see that it represents a lot of votes, and that your groups are reflective of the community

**Karwin:** I see a constant threat to access from cable operators who propose to provide access to the community, perhaps under the heading of "community programming." Most city officials are going to find the cable operator's offer the more comfortable deal. How can access advocates persuade city officials to place value on speech which could be unrestrained? Again, I want to relate this to legal but objectionable speech.

**Bushong:** I think that city officials understand diverse populaces. I would hope that they would not want one person to select the voters in one election, or one small group just to pick who got to vote in the next election. In the same way, the key term "self-restraint" really means one editor in town, and one selector of communications.

**Van Eaton:** Everybody has understood that access channels are open to a diversity of voices for a number of years, but access channels were endorsed by Congress quite explicitly because of their diversity. At least twelve hundred communities have

established access centers, understanding that it would be used to promote diversity. Cities which have faced the worst kind of access programming controversy, i.e., programming brought in by hate groups, have by and large stood by access, with

mainstream, and that is the responsibility of the access manager, to get everyone involved in access, including the moderate voices and the majoritarian voices.

***"I see a constant threat to access from cable operators who propose to provide access to the community, perhaps under the heading of 'community programming.' Most city officials are going to find the cable operator's offer the more comfortable deal."***

Thomas Karwin

one notable exception. So, I don't think there is evidence to support the notion that cities are necessarily hostile to controversial or diverse speech. I think a lot of communities recognize that it's to their advantage to have this type of channel.

**Meyerson:** It's not that they may or may not be hostile, but they're educable, and that's what history has shown. Newspapers, for example, tend to be understanding of the value of free speech. The newspapers around the country tend to sympathize editorially with the right of the speaker, not the right of the cable operator.

**Koning:** So do libraries. They're one of your best allies, because they've dealt with this issue for a hundred years, and they've got some great policies written about free speech in print.

**Meyerson:** And I think that's the key. Access must be

### ***Operating Rules***

**Koning:** Aren't there some allowances for time, place and manner?

**Meyerson:** Time, place and manner, by definition, must be content-neutral. You can say, "Series programs on from 7:00 to 8:00; one-shot programs on from 8:00 to 9:00." That's content-neutral. But you can't say "Programs that I like on a 7:00, and programs I don't like on at 12:00."

**Karwin:** Is it possible to divide the access schedule in such a way that there's a time set aside for "first-come, first-served" speech, and the balance of the schedule is controlled through a programming board?

**Meyerson:** The programming board is the essence of censorship.

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**Bushong:** It also will divide an access center. It's like when the cable company's staff is trying to do both local origination and public access. They can generally do one pretty well, but not both. Once you get into that, you have the access center trying to do one or the other, not really being able to handle both.

**Van Eaton:** Cable operators are attacking access in part on the ground that it is used to favor those who government likes, and censoring those who government doesn't like. In fact, access centers are generally operated consistent with First Amendment principles. The way to avoid that argument is

***"If challenges are ever raised to your programming practices by a programmer, it is essential that there be rules in place which make it clear that the decision is based on an application of rules which are applied consistently to everyone, not simply arbitrary efforts to foreclose particular programming."***

Van Eaton

to ensure you have content-neutral rules in place, that are regularly reviewed in light of emerging First Amendment principles.

If challenges are ever raised to your programming practices by a programmer, it is essential that there be rules in place which make it clear that the decision is based on an application of rules which are applied consistently to everyone, not simply arbitrary efforts to foreclose particular programming. If

you have rules, you've got to set out what they are, so that if a controversial program is refused because of technical reasons, it is clear that other programs are similarly reviewed and rejected for that basis, so that it doesn't appear to be an arbitrary and content-based decision.

**Karwin:** If you have a rule pertaining to technical quality, doesn't that imply that you're going to pre-screen programming?

**Bushong:** Technical standards are a real can of worms. It's rare that an access staff would be able to review all programs as they were playing, not in a prior restraint manner, but for the purpose of determining technical merit.

**Van Eaton:** There are other things that might be used. For example, you might have a requirement that programs be of a certain length, so that they can easily fit within a program schedule.

The point is, if you're going to be rejecting programs on certain basis, you better have a written set of rules, so that everyone is alerted to them, and so that the rules are applied evenhandedly. If you have a policy that says all programs

have to be thirty minutes in length, then you reject programs that aren't thirty minutes in length all the time.

**Meyerson:** You should not trust unwritten rules. You should not have a sort of an institutional history, and "We kind of know how we deal with these issues."

**Bushong:** It's real important not to write rules in the heat of the moment, when a controversial program comes in. Rules that are made at that emotional head of the moment are the worst ones that are written.

**Van Eaton:** You're entitled to develop rules based on your experience, and to change them based on your experience. In fact, consistent with the Constitution, you should change them based on your experience.

### ***Dealing with Subscribers***

**Koning:** Why should cable subscribers subsidize speech they don't agree with, and should they

have the option to lock out the incoming access channel or channels (which they do, technically) and reduce their cable payment by the percentage access receives? [In Michigan], we've got some grass roots activists who are saying, "I don't want that channel. Block it out, and I'm going to deduct from my bill the percentage of franchise fees that goes to them, because I don't want to subsidize their playground."

Continued next page



**Bushong:** That hearkens back to the voluntary check-off idea which some cable people within the cable industry talked about in the mid-1980's as a way of killing access. If you accept the principle that government exists for the common good, there are many things that exist for the common good.

In the case of Austin, we have a survey that says 80% of the people who do not


is that the cable industry is making a fortune out of cable television.

**Van Eaton:** Alan raised a point that the industry has raised the issue of a check off for access before. It should be noted that one thing the industry is not willing to do is to set up a procedure by which viewers could simply buy those programs they want to see, many of which contain

**Karwin:** We're describing a process that begins with educating the community, even before local rules and procedures are written, and that continues, both with outreach activities with the community at large, with the franchising authority, and individual programmers. And it's backed up with explicit rules that are uniformly enforced.

**Meyerson:** I would only add that I don't think education has to precede the rules. When access is introduced, it should have basic non-censorship rules already

firmly in place.

**Karwin:** But where do those rules come from? I think they come from some understanding within the community, within the franchising authority, of what access is, and that implies some kind of educational effort 

***"In the case of Austin, we have a survey that says 80% of the people who do not regularly view public access strongly support—not just support, but strongly support—public access. That's justification that you need..." Bushong***

regularly view public access strongly support—not just support, but strongly support—public access. That's justification that you need to find adequate funding for that forum, and adequate funding exists by creating a base of adequate funding. Voluntary check-off won't work.

**Meyerson:** I would tell these grass roots activists that their subscriber fee is not going for the objectionable speaker to speak, but for your right to speak. If you really want to use your money, you're wasting it when you do not program access. If you're so upset about it's your money, then get what you're paying for. What you're paying for is your right. You're purchasing a right to communicate. Don't blame me if you're too lazy to use it.

I don't buy that it's the subscriber's money. It's the cable operator's money. The cable industry is able to twist this argument on its head, and I don't buy it. The point

programming which is as objectionable as anything that goes on the access channels.

### ***Wrapping Up***

**Bushong:** I would encourage other staff of access centers to educate and organize the community to advocate our rights, to state those first and defend them, and to not accept the logic or rationale put forward by any group that compromises or takes away those rights.

**Meyerson:** The bottom line of these issues will be political and not legal. They will be settled in city council, not in court. In order to win in the city council, public access must do its initial job, which is reach out to all segments of the community, strong and weak, majority and minority, to get the entire community to understand how they are using and can benefit from access.

A limited number of copies of Rules and Procedures for the Use of Austin Access Resources including Austin Access Program Agreement, are available, upon request. Contact: Executive Director Alan Bushong, Austin Community Television P.O. Box 1076, Austin, Texas 78767. (512) 478-8600. While these rules and procedures are not officially endorsed by the NFLCP, they provide a good starting point for writing or reviewing local access center rules.



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- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron                       | \$120 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional                 | \$60  |
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### ORGANIZATION

- |                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For-Profit | \$180 |
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### Government Entities /

### Cable Systems & MSO's

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10,000 subs.       | \$180 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 to 50,000 subs. | \$480 |
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